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EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF NATHAN SELLERS, 1776–1778.

CONTRIBUTED BY HORACE W. SELLERS.

The diary of Nathan Sellers, for the year 1776, is principally a record of such duties as were occasioned by the Revolution. Almost every day seems to have been occupied in "making priming wires," "at salt petre," and in signing money. In April commence the frequent entries which subsequently appear in regard to attendance at muster, generally at "Fox Chase, per order of Colonel." This, however, was not his first association with military affairs, for the testimony drawn up against him by the Darby Meeting, and pursuant with which he was subsequently disowned by the Society, bears date of "ye 28th day of ye 12th m^{o} 1775," and charges him with "joyning with the present commotions in training and or learning the military art."

On August 6, 1776, he writes: Signing money. At Darby, Capt. Rudolph's Company marched.

August 10.—Passed muster. Signed 5 quires.

August 11.—At Colonel Paschall's.

August 13.—Wrote Colonel Paschall's Will. Our Company marched to Philadelphia.

August 14.—Went to Philadelphia expecting to march. Returned home.

August 15.—Went to Philadelphia, went on Board Shallop; 10 o'clock P.M. sailed.

August 16.—Arrived at Bristol 6 o'clock A.M. At Trenton in the evening. Lodged in the Barracks.

August 17.—Marched to Prince Town. Lodged in the College.

August 18.—Remained in College.

August 19.—Marched to New Brunswick.

August 20.—Marched to Amboy and encamped back of the Town.

August 21 *to* 27.—At Camp at Amboy.

August 27.—At camp. Battle on Long Island. Ordered to march to Newark.

August 28.—At 2 o'clock A.M. marched to Elizabeth Town. Alarmed in the evening.

August 29.—Marched to Newark. Father and Sammy arrived with Order of Congress for my return.

[The following is a copy of the order referred to:]

IN CONGRESS August 26. 1776.

A petition from sundry paper makers was presented to Congress and read praying that Nathan Sellers an associator in colonel Paschall's battalion and who has marched to New Jersey may be ordered to return home, to make and prepare suitable moulds, washers & utensils for the carrying on the paper manufactory.

Resolved That the prayor of the petition be granted.

Extract from the minutes

CHAS THOMSON Secy.

[On the reverse of this paper is written:]

The within Nathan Sellers being discharged the service agreeable to the within resolve of Congress, he together with his Father John and Brother Samuel Sellers Messengers on this occasion, having first produced the permission of the Honble. the Committee of the City & Liberties of Philada to come forward to this Camp, they are permitted viz John Sellers the Father & Nathan & Samuel Sellers his sons to pass from hence to Philada.

Head Quarters Augst. 30th 1776

JONATHAN PASCHALL
Col

DANL. ROBERDEAU
Brigadier General

In Council July 24 1777:

The Council being desirous of obtaining a survey of the shore of the river delaware and of the land for about 3 or 4 miles to the westward taking in the great roads leading to the Southward where they may extend further than that dis-

tance from the river and remarking the several places where the enemy may land, the kind of ground adjoining whether marshy, hilly, open or covered with woods, and where there are several heights near each other remarking their altitudes and distances apart—and remarking particularly the several creeks and streams of water as far up at least as the tide flows and the places where they may be forded or passed by bridges—Where there are swamps near the river or roads noting particularly their kinds & sizes nearly—Passes of difficulty to an army to be accurately surveyed and well described—They therefore direct you to proceed immediately upon this duty with as much secrecy and dispatch as the nature of it will admit—beginning at Grays ferry on Schuylkill and making your observations down the river as far as Christiana Creek.

(signed) GEO. BRYAN
Vice-president.

IN COUNCIL PHILADELPHIA July 24, 1777.

The Council having occasion to take a rough survey of the country near the river Delaware have authorized and directed Mr. Nathan Sellers to perform that service between Schuylkill and Christiana Creek. All persons are hereby requested to be aiding and assisting in the said service when called upon.

(signed) GEO. BRYAN Vice president.

To
ALL CONCERNED.

Delaware State Ss
allowed
(signed) JNO. M. KINLY, Presd^t.

August 13th. 1777

YORK TOWN, April 11th, 1778.

SIR,

The Honourable the Treasury Board having Occasion of another Form for the making of Paper, you are therefore as a good Whig and sincere friend to American Liberty requested without delay to accompany the Express who takes

this to you, so that you be here as soon as possible, bringing with you such Tools as may be necessary.—As to Wire we have enough here with us.

Yours &c

(signed) M. HILLEGAS

Please to keep an account
of your Expenses, as they
will be reimbursed.

MR. NATHAN SELLERS.

This may certifie that Mr Nathan Sellers ye bearer hereof is on his Return from York Town to Darby Town Ship in Chester County, & ought not be molested or impeded on his way, having been employed by ye Board of Treasury & given evident Marks of his attachment to ye cause of ye united States. (signed)

E. GERRY

YORK TOWN, May 2d 1778.

WAR OFFICE YORK TOWN May 3d, 1778.

Permit the Bearer Mr Nathan Sellers to pass unmolested from hence to his Father John Sellers's in Darby Township Philadelphia County he being a loyal Subject of these States.

By order of the Board

(signed)

RICHARD PETERS

To all Continental officers
& others whom it may concern.

The Honorable Treasury Board

To Nathan Sellers Dr.

May 2d. 1778.

To making a fine paper mould	£10		
To laying 56 letters at 7/6 each	21		
To Cash pd. for wire	1	2	6
To do for frames & Copper	2	–	–
To Expenses Coming to York	6	15	9
To Expenses at York	8	15	11
To 7 days Coming & returning	7	–	–
To Expenses to return	5	–	–
	£61	14	2

These may Certifie that the bearer hereof Nathan Sellers, who has uniformly and Constantly born a steady Testimony for the Cause of the united States, and rendered Acceptable Services therein, was at the time he was notified to attend in the Militia an invalid, having had an Uncommon hard fitt of the Flux and fever, in which his life was a long while dispaired of, and from the Danger of which he was but just recovered, and in nowise fit for or capable of any Military duty. Given under my Hand this 30th day of Septm. 1778.

(signed)

BOAZ MATTHEW
Capt.

I do hereby Certifie, That Nathan Sellers, wire worker, Hath Voluntarily taken and subscribed the Affirmation of Allegiance and Fidelity, as directed by an Act of General assembly of Pennsylvania passed the fifth day of December, A.D. 1778. Witness my Hand and Seal the Eleventh day of October Anno Domini, 1779.

L.S. (signed)

ISAAC HOWELL Com^r.

No. 44.

The Petition of Nathan Sellers of Chester County Humbly Sheweth

That Major D. Braddish in Collecting Horses for the use of the States, on Saturday last took from your Petitioner a mare: That the sd. Mare is with Foal, and your Petitioner humbly Concieves Unfit for the Service: That the Major encouraged your Petitioner to apply to your Excellency respecting her: That she is all the Horse kind your Petitioner had, and you may be assur'd he will take all possible care to keep her out of the Enemies' Hands should she be return'd. He therefore humbly prays that you would please to order her to be return'd to him again, and your Petitioner will gratefully acknowledge the favor, and as Duly bound will ever pray &c.

Feby. 23d. 1778

NN. SELLERS

To his Excellency GNL: GREEN

Indorsed:

SIR,

If the above mentioned mare is not fit for the service tis General Greene's wish that she be returned to Mr. Sellers

To COL. LUTTERLOH Your most obdt.

D. Qr. Mr. Gl. ROB. FORSYTH A Camp Pro Tem

[On the reverse side of the paper is written the following:]

MR WILLIAMS

You will see to find the horse and if as stated he is to have it back

(signed) LUTTERLOH

For very particular reasons, it is thought the within mentioned horse ought to be restored to the owner. He is in Col: Vose's possession

(signed)

A. HAMILTON A D C

HEAD QUARTERS
April 19th 1778